

DIBELS and IDEL

Assessments provide valuable information for students, parents and educators on whether students have mastered grade level and content standards and are on track to graduate prepared for the 21st century. These assessment results are intended to provide one measure in a body of evidence of your child's academic progress.



WHAT IS THIS ASSESSMENT?

DIBELS stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills. It is an individually administered assessment system that uses a set of procedures and measures designed to assess a student's progress in the acquisition of early literacy skills from Kindergarten through sixth grade. The skills measured include phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and comprehension. Students complete tests depending on their grade levels and time of the year.

IDEL, or Indicadores Dinámicos del Éxito en la Lectura, is a formative assessment series designed to measure the basic early literacy skills of children learning to read in Spanish. The IDEL measures are not a translation of DIBELS, although they are based on the same research-based evidence of how children learn to read in alphabetic languages. IDEL also takes into account the linguistic structure of the Spanish language including the phonology, orthography, and syntax. The measures are standardized, short, individually administered, and can be used to regularly monitor the development of early Spanish literacy skills. IDEL measures skills in all areas of the core components of beginning reading including: phonological awareness, alphabetic principle, accuracy and fluency with connected text, vocabulary and comprehension. IDEL also assesses letter naming fluency as an added indicator of risk.

Both DIBELS and IDEL are approved assessments for the Colorado READ Act and are used to measure students' reading achievement levels and progress, screen students for reading deficits, and differentiate instruction. DIBELS and IDEL diagnostic data can be used to create targeted reading intervention plans (READ Plans) for students reading significantly below grade level.



WHEN IS MY CHILD BEING TESTED?

Per the Colorado READ Act, all students in grades K-3 must be assessed with a State Board approved interim reading assessment during specific testing windows. The READ Act testing windows occur for six weeks in the fall, midyear, and spring. Kindergarten students have an additional 30 calendar days to complete their fall assessment. Per state law, Kindergarten through third grade students who score below a minimum competency level will need one to two additional assessments to verify reading status.

READ Act Testing Windows:

Grades K – 12	Late August – Late October	Fall
Grades K – 12	December – Mid-February	Midyear
Grades K – 12	May	Spring

Testing dates may vary by school. For specific testing dates for your student, please check with your child's teacher.



WHAT SCORE(S) WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE?

DIBELS and IDEL define the following proficiency results for students during the three READ Act testing windows (please see below):

1. Above Benchmark – Students performing above grade level
2. At Benchmark-Students performing at grade level

3. Below Benchmark/Strategic – Students performing below grade level and in need of intervention
4. Well Below Benchmark/Intensive – Students performing significantly below grade level and in need of urgent, intensive intervention

For specific score information for your student, please check with your child’s teacher.



HOW WILL THESE SCORES BE USED?

A student’s scores on the DIBELS and IDEL measures give the school information about whether or not a student is on track for grade-level reading success. A school can quickly identify students who do not meet the goals on each measure and provide extra help. For example, if your child is reading words accurately, but slowly, the teacher can provide extra practice re-reading stories and passages to improve his or her reading rate or fluency. The teacher can use the progress monitoring scores to make sure your student receives extra help to improve other reading skills during the school year. Teachers can review scores on measures for all the students in a class to make decisions about how to prepare their day-to-day reading lessons.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We encourage you to be involved in your child’s education. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to your child’s teacher for ways you can help your child at home and availability of testing accommodations.

More Information: Assessments

Visit:

- assessments.dpsk12.org

If you have questions or concerns about assessments, please contact your child’s school directly or call Family Constituency Services at (720) 423-3054.